

Cont.d from page one— Many successes in first year

Meth production, Rep. Nunes held a joint hearing by two House subcommittees on the growing problem of drug production on public lands at the Wuksachi Village and Lodge in Sequoia National Park. The hearing highlighted problems with marijuana, opium and methamphetamine on public lands. Along these lines, he has cosponsored legislation called the CLEAN UP Meth Act (CLEAN UP stands for Clean, Learn, Educate, Abolish, Neutralize, and Undermine Production).

Rep. Nunes organized and developed the Congressional Hispanic Conference and was immediately appointed Vice-Chair. In this capacity, he has worked to provide a conservative voice and outreach to those of Portuguese and Hispanic descent. On that note, Rep. Nunes made a landmark visit to the Azores Islands to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Lajes Air Base, as well as visit U.S. troops for Veteran's Day. The Azores Islands have done more than provide moral and strategic support to our country, they have produced many outstanding American citizens.

During the August recess, in which Congress is out of session, Rep. Nunes spent time talking with residents in Fresno and Tulare counties, as well as traveling to South America with the Agricultural Committee on an ag trade mission. He also traveled to Missouri to participate in a tour of Midwest agriculture and to Israel to examine the benefits of U.S. foreign assistance in the country.

On the transportation front, Rep. Nunes began his campaign to get more federal transportation dollars for the Central Valley from the reauthorization of TEA-21 by testifying before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. His main theme, "the roads in the world's most prolific agricultural region are disintegrating." For too long, taxpayers in California have donated money to transportation and infrastructure projects in other regions of the country. Rep. Nunes believes that the time has come for California to reclaim some of the money that we lose on an annual basis to the federal government.



Rep. Nunes visits students at a Head Start center in Porterville.



Rep. Nunes help cut the ribbon at the Reedley Workforce Investment Center with Fresno Supervisor Judy Case.



Rep. Nunes discusses health care issues with Kaweah Delta Healthcare District CEO Lindsay Mann.



The congressman takes part in a park clean up in Visalia for Make a Difference Day, alongside staff member Ed Galvan.

Nunes works with colleagues on issues important to nation

Rep. Nunes worked to secure San Joaquin Valley ideals on many other issues that came before Congress this past year. Congress passed three different supplemental appropriation bills to support our efforts on the war on terror. This helped pay for the war in Iraq and for our continued efforts in Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda trained in both countries. Now, both countries are making the tough transition to democratic government.

Congress also passed defense appropriations and authorization bills that included necessary long-term funding for our defense efforts which included a pay increase for our troops and a historic change in the disabled veterans compensation. For the first time since the Civil War, many disabled veterans will be able to receive both their disability payments and their retirement benefits. Congress also enacted into law the Military Family Tax Relief Act, which provides overdue tax relief targeted to our dedicated servicemen and their families.

Another challenge we faced at the beginning of this year was a slowing economy which undermined both business and consumer confidence, while shattering investor confidence. Congress passed the President's economic growth package aimed at restoring confidence in the business, consumer, and investor sectors. Coupled with the earlier tax cut signed into law in 2001, these tax relief bills spurred our economy. With less money going to the federal government, small businesses were able to spend more money on equipment and growth, stemming the tide of unemployment and creating jobs. These bills also returned money to con-

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